



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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NEW YORK, NY 10021

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

June 17, 1988

The Honorable Edward I. Koch  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Ed:

Thank you for arranging the meeting with Richard Green on May 12th and for your letter of June 3rd about fostering university-school relationships.

The Rockefeller University, as you know, is an institution devoted to advanced research in biomedical science; and in that somewhat specialized role we would be making a somewhat different contribution than a city college or Columbia University. Institutionally the most important thing that we can, and do, is to provide an introduction to research experience in our laboratories to students at the high school level. I will make further inquiry, and report back to you, whether there are opportunities or obstacles that may bear on broadening that activity still further. At any given time we have several students on campus and of course several more over the summer. We have sometimes faced legal problems and issues in respect to insurance coverage connected with admitting minors to our laboratories, and perhaps we could get help from your administration on points like that. I will be back to you.

In addition, there is of course the individual role that I, and many others of our administrators and professors, have in relation to a variety of schools. As an alumnus of Stuyvesant High School I have been very much interested in the welfare of that institution, and have been working quite closely with Abe Baumel over the last couple of years in connection with their planning for a new facility in Battery Park. Most particularly I was able to get the Dreyfus Foundation behind providing support and recruitment for administrative assistance to an

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extremely overburdened principal and staff, now faced with the additional responsibilities of facilities planning. We also got good help from the Executive Service Corps in recruiting retired executives to put some of their time into the same function. I believe that management is a critical problem at many of our schools -- especially when they face novel burdens, but, as any student will tell you even in the day to day operation of their programs. So my suggestion to you would be to set up a task force to look at the ways in which the management role could be enhanced including the use of skilled volunteer help. Besides Stuyvesant High School there are several other schools in New York City that would most profit from a relationship with The Rockefeller University: most notably Hunter and the Bronx High School of Science. The problems today at Hunter may be more political as there is recurrent controversy about the priority of academic standards, versus other criteria, for recruitment into Hunter and for its geographic location. I would be very much concerned if, in the name of broadening opportunity, we were also to squash down some of the premier opportunities for first class education that this city has offered to one minority cadre after another during its evolution throughout this century!

I certainly do want to congratulate the city on its appointment of Dr. Green and you on your continued involvement with these problems; and I certainly want to assure you of my own unremitting support.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

cc: Mr. Rodney W. Nichols  
Ms. Cynthia Greenleaf